

Testimony of
Mary Consoli, RN, BSN
42 Tamanny Trail
Danbury, CT 06811
mmconsoli1948@gmail.com

Education Committee

March 4, 2022

H.B. No. 5283 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANT
FORMULA AND THE FUNDING OF OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Dear Representative Sanchez and Senator McCrory and members of the Education Committee:

I am Mary Consoli, a resident of Danbury. CT for 48 years, I am writing to ask you to support Raised Bill No. 5283, An Act Concerning the Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula and the Funding of Other Programs.

The General Assembly has taken steps toward equitably funding Connecticut's Public school students, it still faces many challenges to implement and maintain a fully equitable school finance system, Raised HB 5283 will help eliminate those challenges. Connecticut continues to use many different funding formulas to fund its public schools. The amount of funding a school is primarily based on where the school located, the "type" of school that it is, I.E. magnet, charter, agriscience, technical etc., rather than the needs of the students it serves.

Local property taxes are the largest source of funding for public schools. The City of Danbury is in Fairfield County, the wealth in our County varies widely. Our property taxes are far different from the cities and towns in lower Fairfield County, which allows for cities or towns to fund their schools at higher levels than others. This also holds true throughout the State. The City of Danbury choses to be the lowest payer in the State for its education system, thus providing a much different education than other cities in Connecticut. Danbury has a high percent of minority students who do not speak English as a primary language, thus increasing our higher needs students, along with other classifications of Special Needs Students. Higher needs students does not always translate to greater resources. There continues to be no correlation in Connecticut between the percentage of low-income and English learner students in a district and per pupil spending. This impacts the education system funding for the City of Danbury.

H.B. 5283 would deliver the education funding system Connecticut's students deserve. It will provide funds for all students based on their needs. It will increase transparency around how schools are funded, reduce the racial and economic disparities in Connecticut education funding and most important, provides for fully funding he Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula.

Educating our youth has to be a priority, they are our future. I ask you again to support Raised H.B. 5283.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mary Consoli